

Annex A**Woking Joint Committee
22 January 2020
Open Public Question Time****Question 1: Cllr Ben Carasco, regarding parking at Beaufort Road.**

Beaufort Road is the Woking North County Division, for which I am County Councillor and the Pyrford Borough Ward, with Cllrs Rashid, Gary and Graham, all of whom, at different times, have tried to address this matter.

The road is host to a green, between the road and the front of houses, which the Borough classes as an amenity. There is also a path between the green and the houses. The green is used by a number of vehicles, including trade vehicles, as an unauthorised car park.

As a consequence, the area is an unsightly mess, an eyesore and a safety hazard. Both Borough and County Officers have visited the site and recognise the issues. Residents have been seeking action for many years and, until recently, my various interactions on this matter were on the assumption that this was Borough land.

However, other voices are now indicating the green is Highways property.

Could I, through the Chair, request formal clarification on the ownership of this land and responsibility for issues arising. This would allow both myself and Borough Councillors to pursue this long running issue and hopefully sort our appropriate action.

Response:

This area and the parking issues there were discussed in September 2019. In brief, the Highways authority has no legislative requirement to provide residential parking. Because of the level of the land, the creation of parking spaces on the green would be expensive.

The highways information team subsequently confirmed that the area of verge under discussion does form part of the public highway. This is shown on GIS records that were created by Woking BC when they were our agents for delivery of highway services. WBC own the freehold of the land as housing authority. Although it is a large area it is consistent with the general rule with council housing estates that verges between the carriageway and the nearest footway are part of the highway.

This being the case, any scheme to introduce additional parking at this location could be promoted by either SCC or WBC subject to approval of details by SCC as the highway authority. However, as was explained in the previous written response to Committee in the September 2019 meeting, SCC Highways have no statutory obligation to provide parking on the public highway, and this would be a difficult and expensive location to create parking due to the gradient of the area. We routinely receive requests for parking provision, and these are normally not progressed due to them being very low priority in comparison to other local need, and if such a project was progressed, it is likely to increase demand from other residents.

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